

CHESHIRE EAST

CABINET

Date of meeting:	4 NOVEMBER 2008
Report of:	JOHN WEEKS – STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (PEOPLE) DESIGNATE
Title:	Creation of Adult Safeguarding Boards

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This Report outlines the process for creating Adult Safeguarding Boards in Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester which will need to operate from 1 April 2009.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to direct officers to change the current County-wide Adult Protection Committee into two, multi-agency Adult Safeguarding Boards for 1 April 2009. The purpose of the Boards will be to deliver the Action Plan outlined in the Feb 2008 Commission for Social Care and Inspection (CSCI) Safeguarding Inspection, and ultimately the improved protection of vulnerable adults.
- 2.2 The creation of the new councils presents an opportunity to ensure effective strategies, policies and good practice are in place to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, harm and exploitation.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 It will be necessary to incur transitional costs in the region of £5,000 for the recruitment on an Independent Chair for each new Adult Safeguarding Board. It is now recognised as best practice that the Chair should be independent from the local partners agencies. Details of the Actions necessary to complete this task are attached at Appendix 1.

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 The ongoing financial implications for the maintenance of the Adult Safeguarding Board are detailed in the Table at Appendix 3. The annual cost for 2008/09 is expected to be in the region of £15,000 per annum with annual increases in line with inflation in subsequent years. These costs represent 20 days at £450 recompense for the Independent Chair, £1,000 travel and expenses and with £5,000 for meetings management and training. This does not take into account the actual cost to social care services in investigating cases of adult abuse.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising out of this Report.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 The main risk is that failure to secure the small transitional costs identified would result in difficulties in attracting a suitably qualified and experienced person to chair the Adult Safeguarding Board.

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 Safeguarding vulnerable adults is a crucially important role, undertaken by highly committed social care professionals in partnership with a range of other health and public protection agencies and the voluntary and private sectors. There has been a local and national increase in reports of alleged abuse of vulnerable adults. This relates to increased awareness and training.
- 7.2 It is against this background that a Strategic Review of Adult Safeguarding work was completed in the early part of 2008, to ensure that existing policy and practice was fit for purpose and to consider the implications of further increases of reported abuse, which would reflect the national trend. The review made a total of 20 recommendations for improvements in adult safeguarding policy and practice. One key recommendation was to create Adult Safeguarding Boards in the new councils to ensure the effective coordination and delivery of improved safeguarding outcomes for vulnerable adults.
- 7.3 The Review also recommended that the newly created Adult Safeguarding Boards would ensure the effective implementation of a Strategic Outcomes Framework for Adult Safeguarding. The Strategic Review of Adult Safeguarding, together with the Action Plan for implementing the Review Recommendations, are attached at Appendices II and III respectively. The draft Strategic Outcomes Framework for Adult Safeguarding is attached at Appendix IV.

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1 The creation of an Adults Safeguarding Board working to a clearly defined three-Year Strategic Outcomes Framework will ensure the new council is implementing best practice to tackle the hidden and abhorrent practice of adult abuse. The issue of responding to further increases in the number of reported incidents of abuse will put increasing pressure on already stretched social work teams and will need separate but urgent consideration as the new councils come into operation.

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 9.1 To ensure that an Adult Safeguarding Board is in place and operating effectively from 1 April 2009.

For further information:

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Background Documents:

Documents are available for inspection at: